

FIG. 1

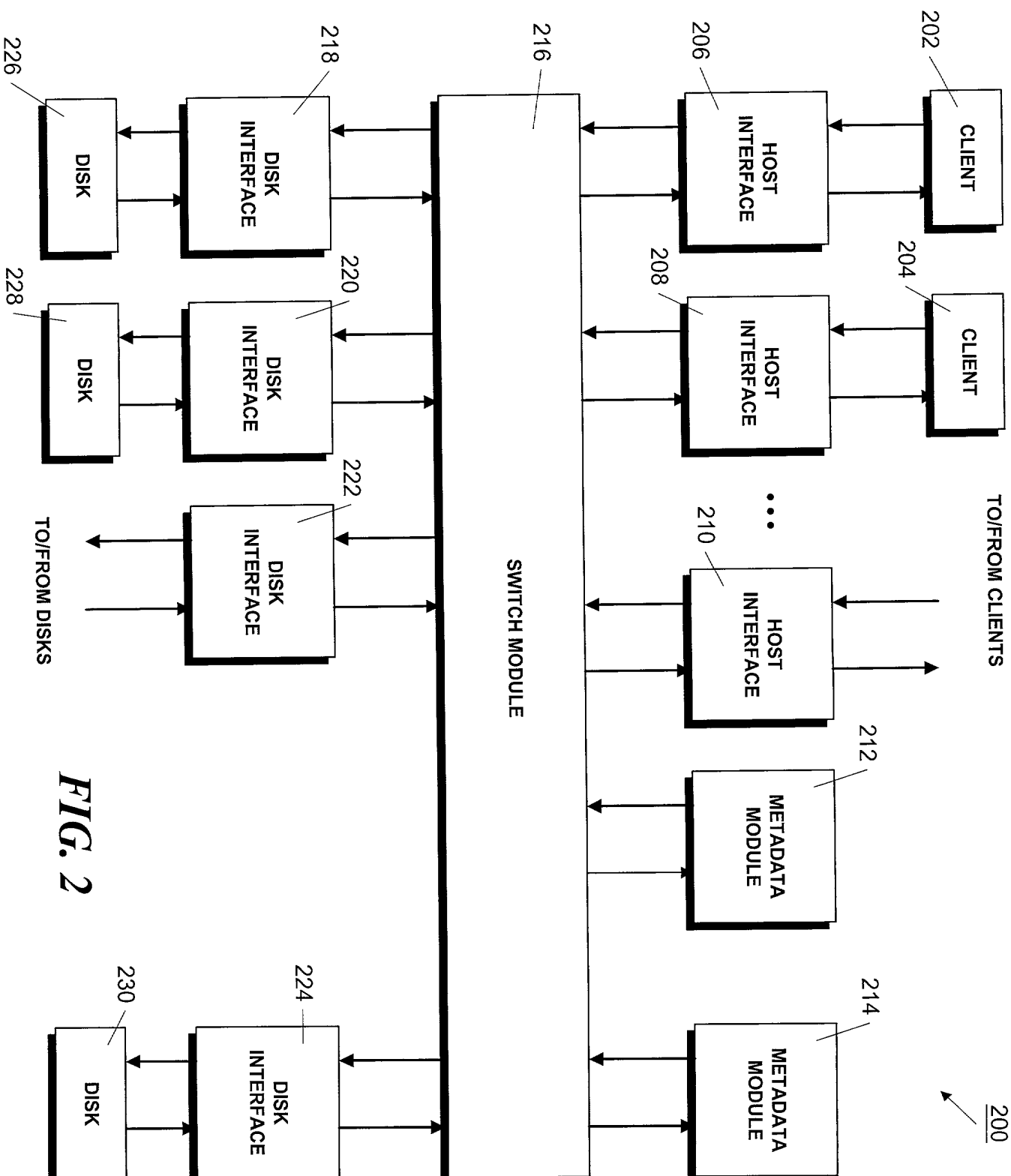


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

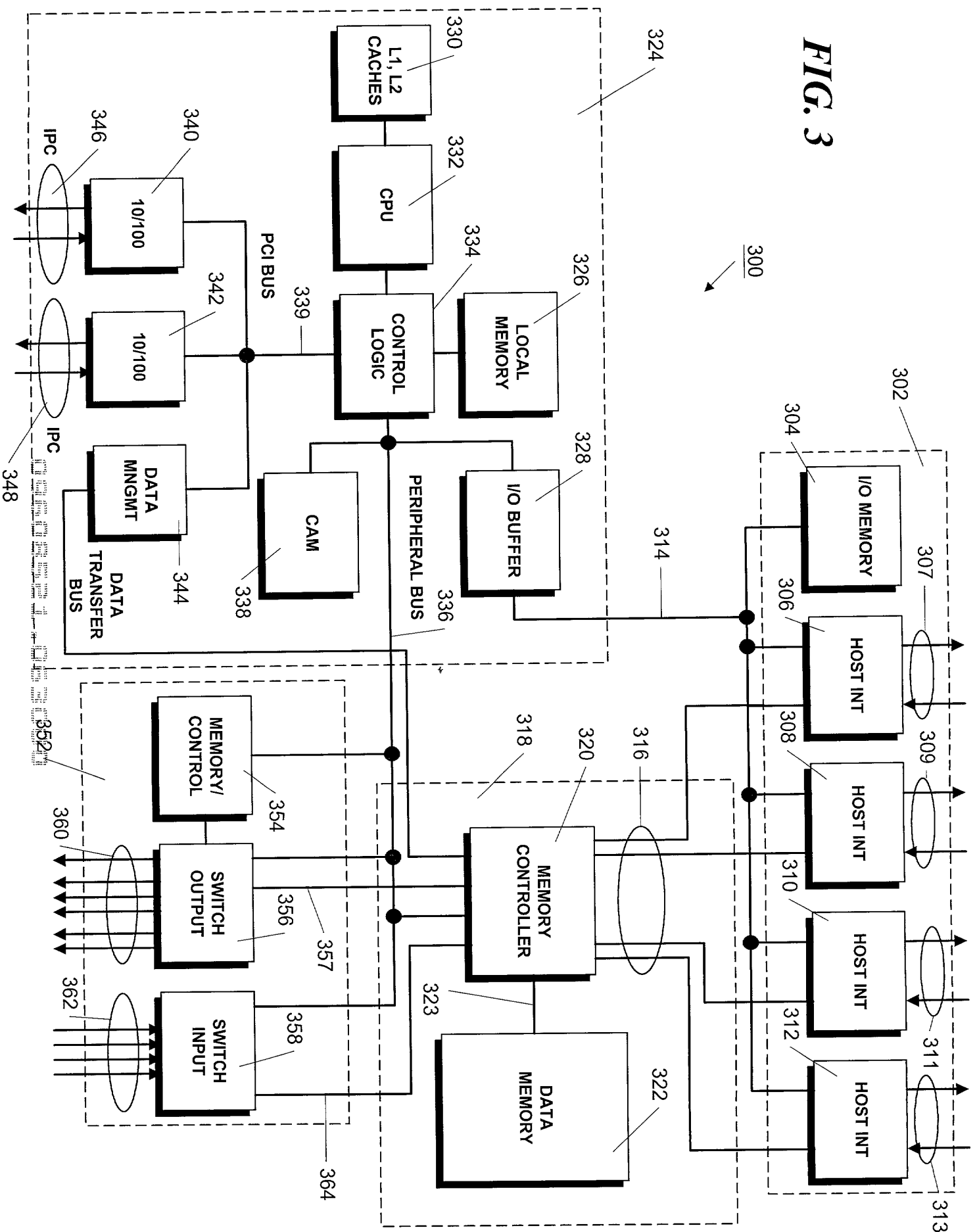


FIG. 4A is a flowchart illustrating a process for handling a request from a client. The process starts at 400 (START), proceeds to 402 (RECEIVE REQUEST FROM CLIENT), then to 404 (EXTRACT OBJECT HANDLE). A decision is made at 406 (INODE IN MEMORY?). If the answer is Y (Yes), the process goes to 408 (FETCH INODE FROM LOCAL MEMORY). If the answer is N (No), the process goes to 410 (QUERY METADATA MODULE). Both paths lead to a decision at 412 (REQUEST PERMITTED?). If the answer is N (No), the process goes to 414 (RETURN ERROR) and then to 415 (FINISH). If the answer is Y (Yes), the process goes to 416 (REQUEST TYPE?). A decision is made at 416 based on the request type. If the request type is WRITE, the process goes to 417 (A). If the request type is READ, the process goes to 419 (B).

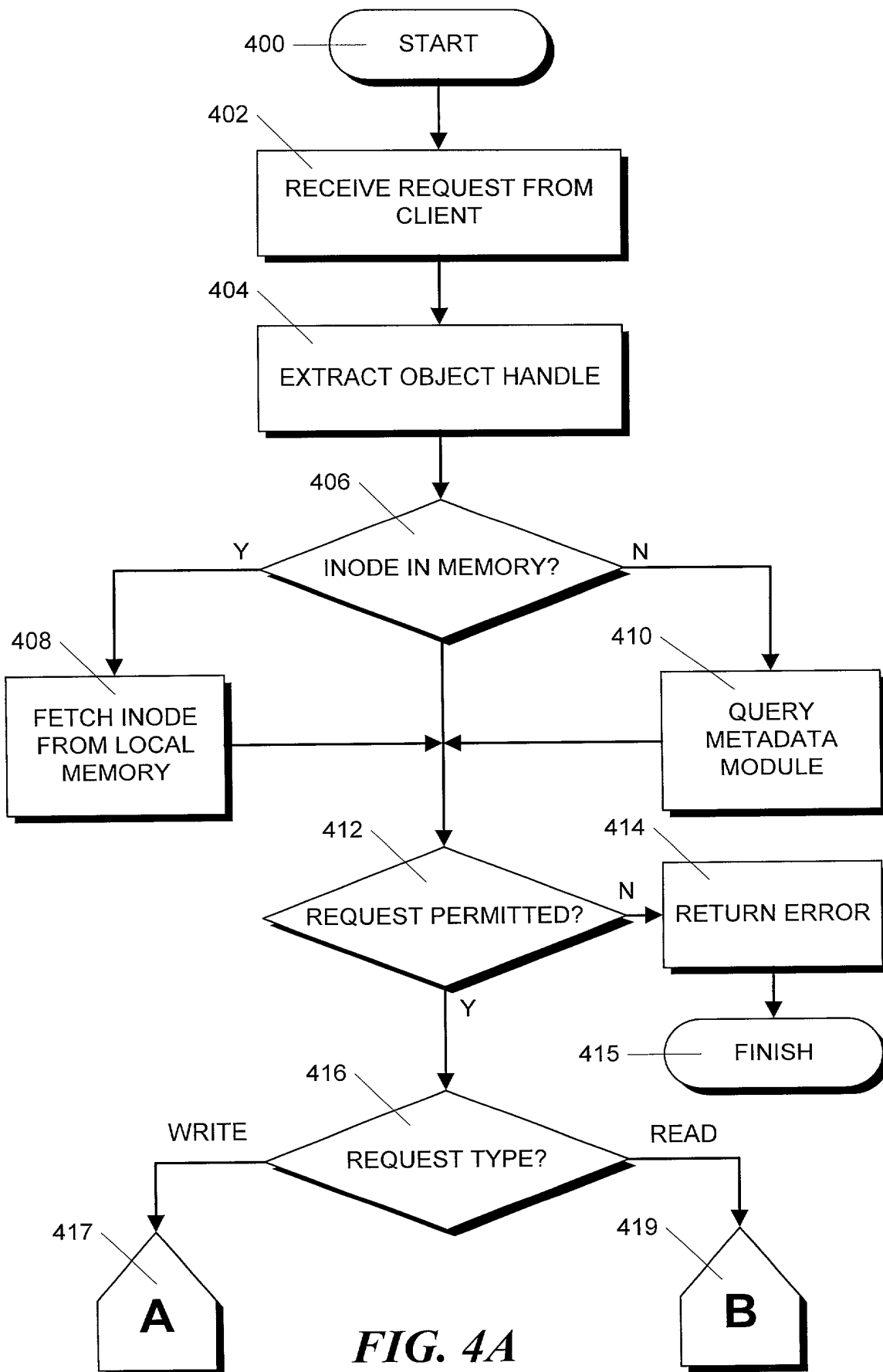


FIG. 4A

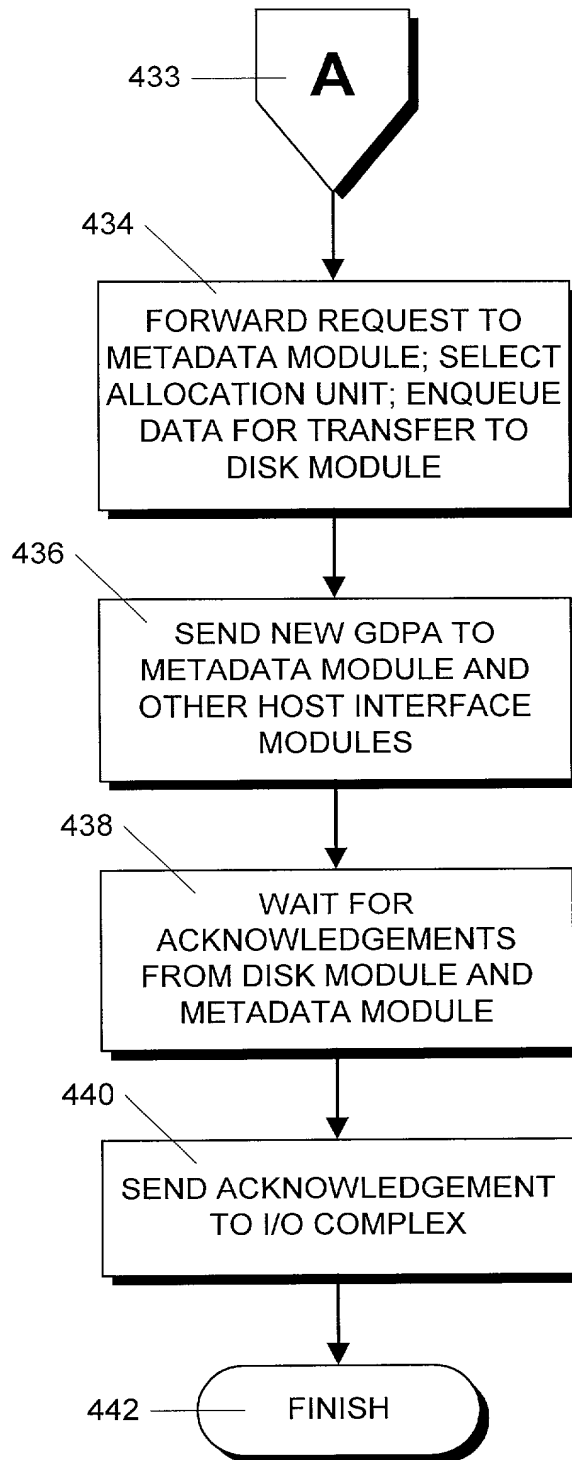


FIG. 4B

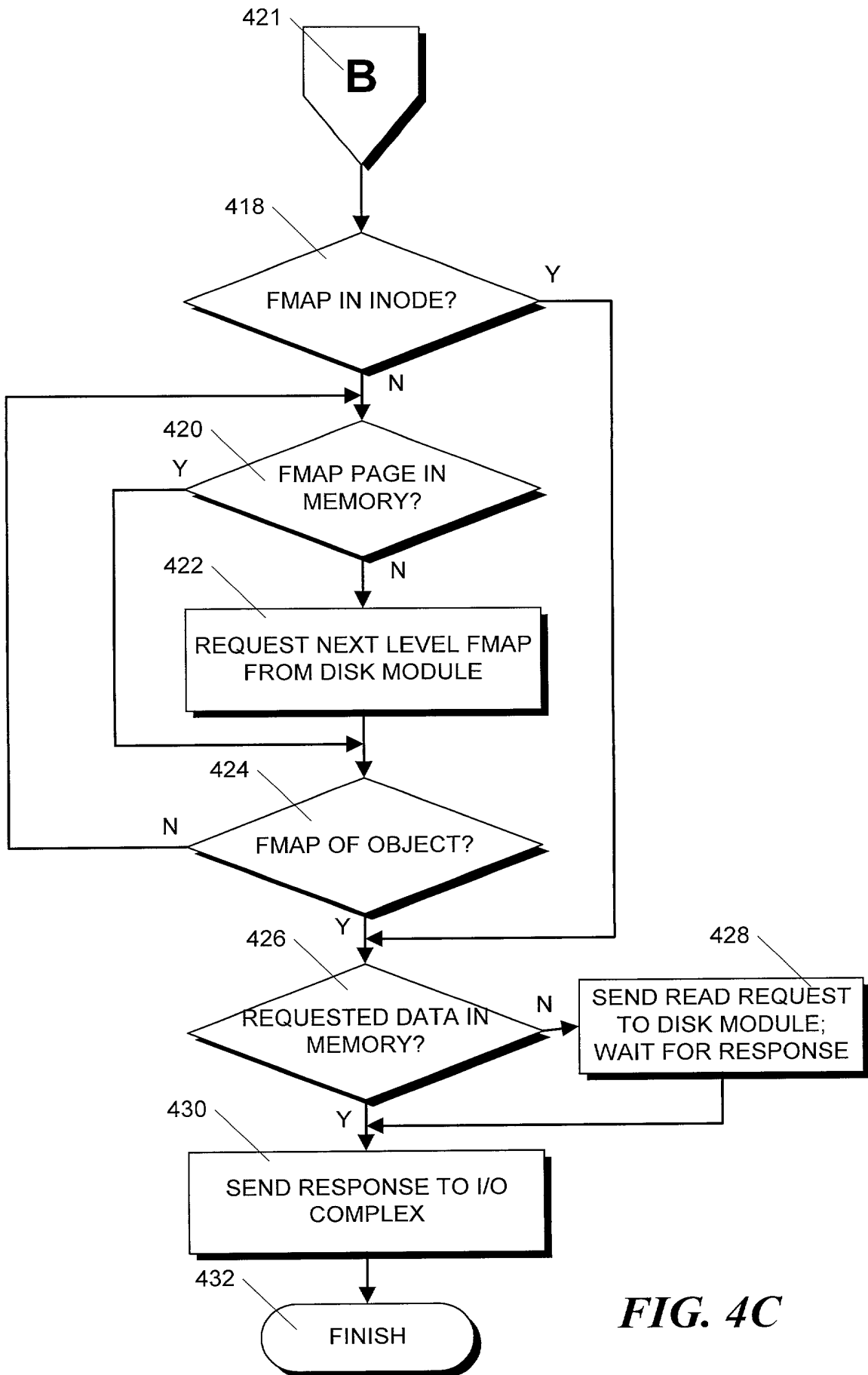
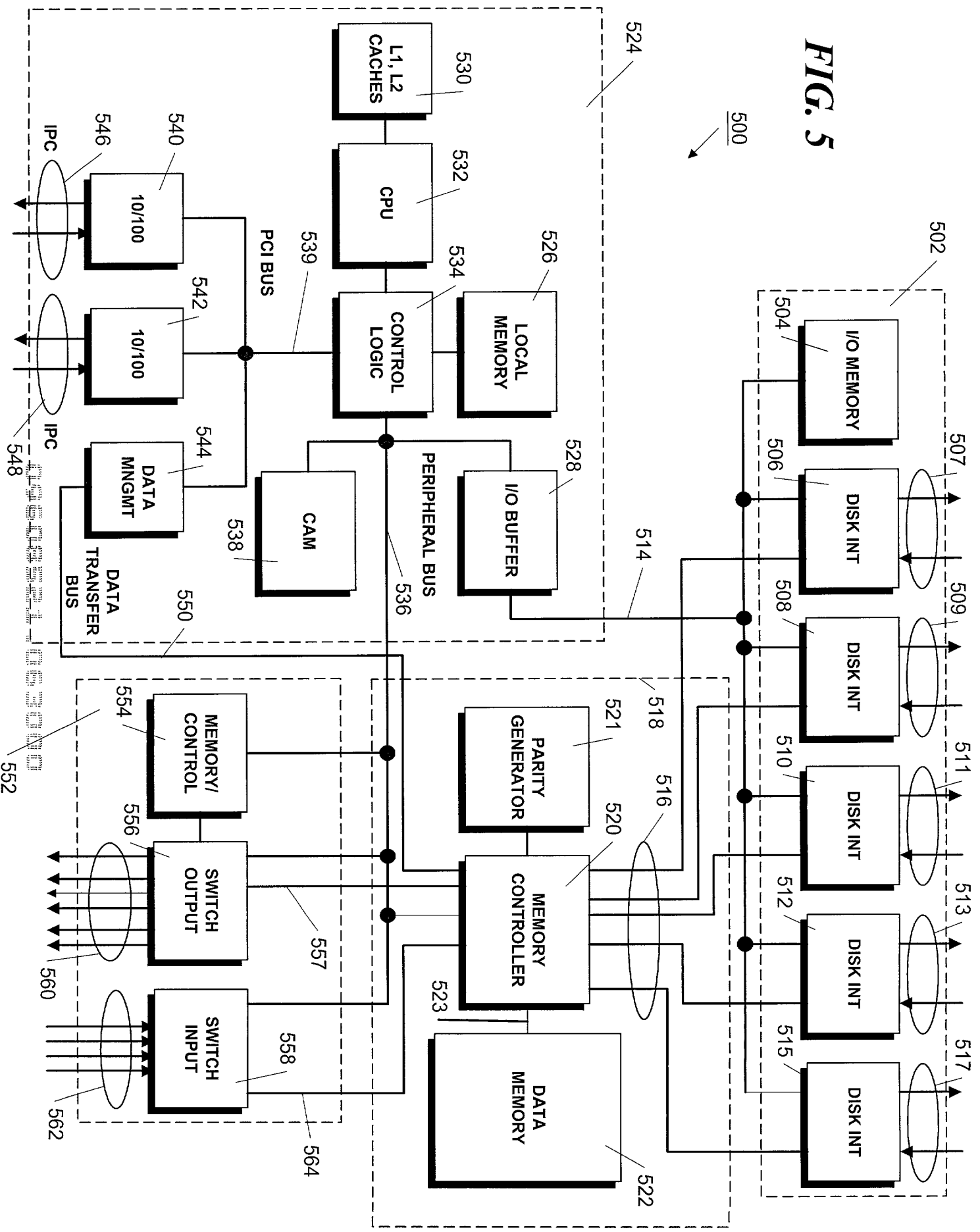


FIG. 4C

FIG. 5



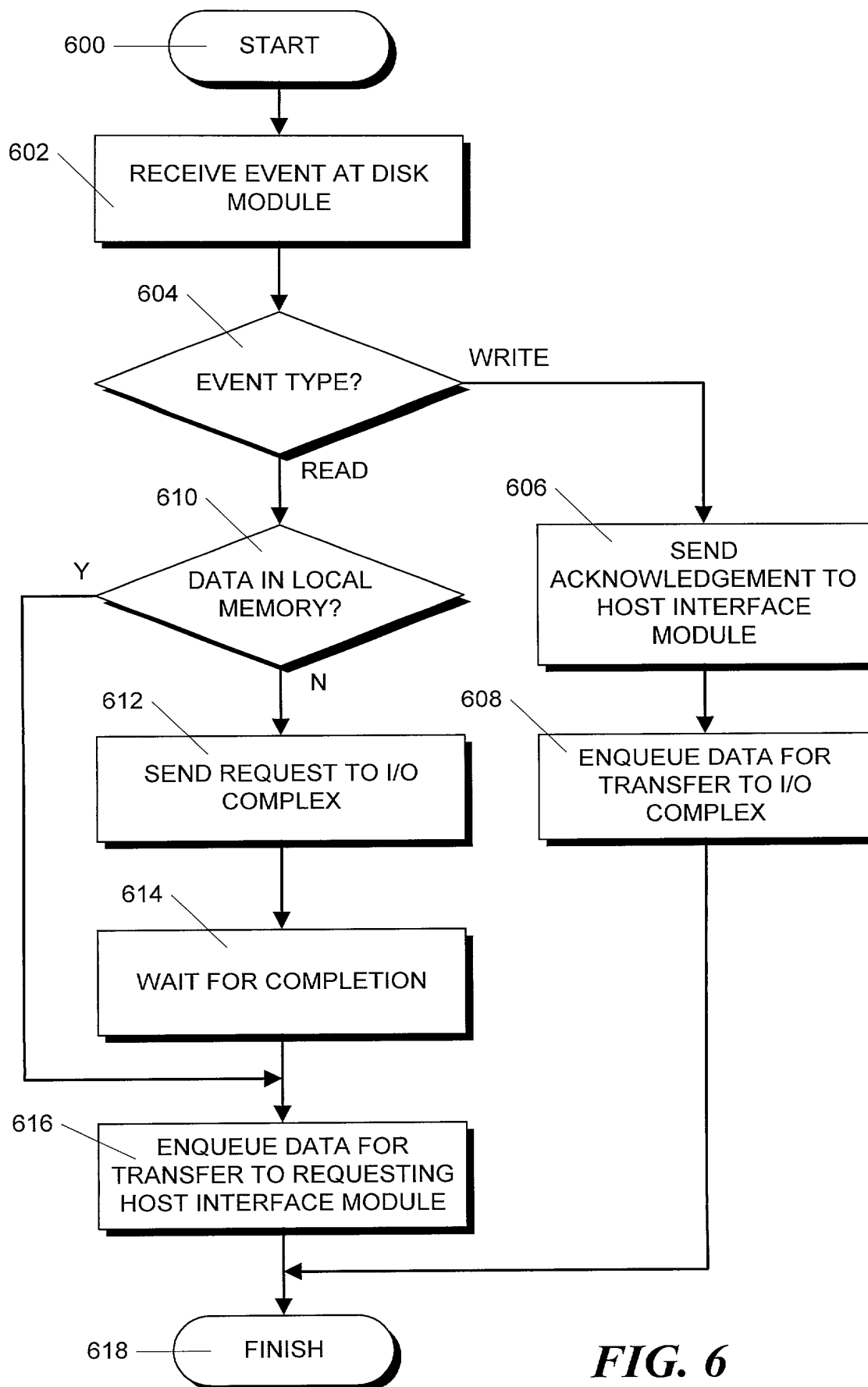


FIG. 6

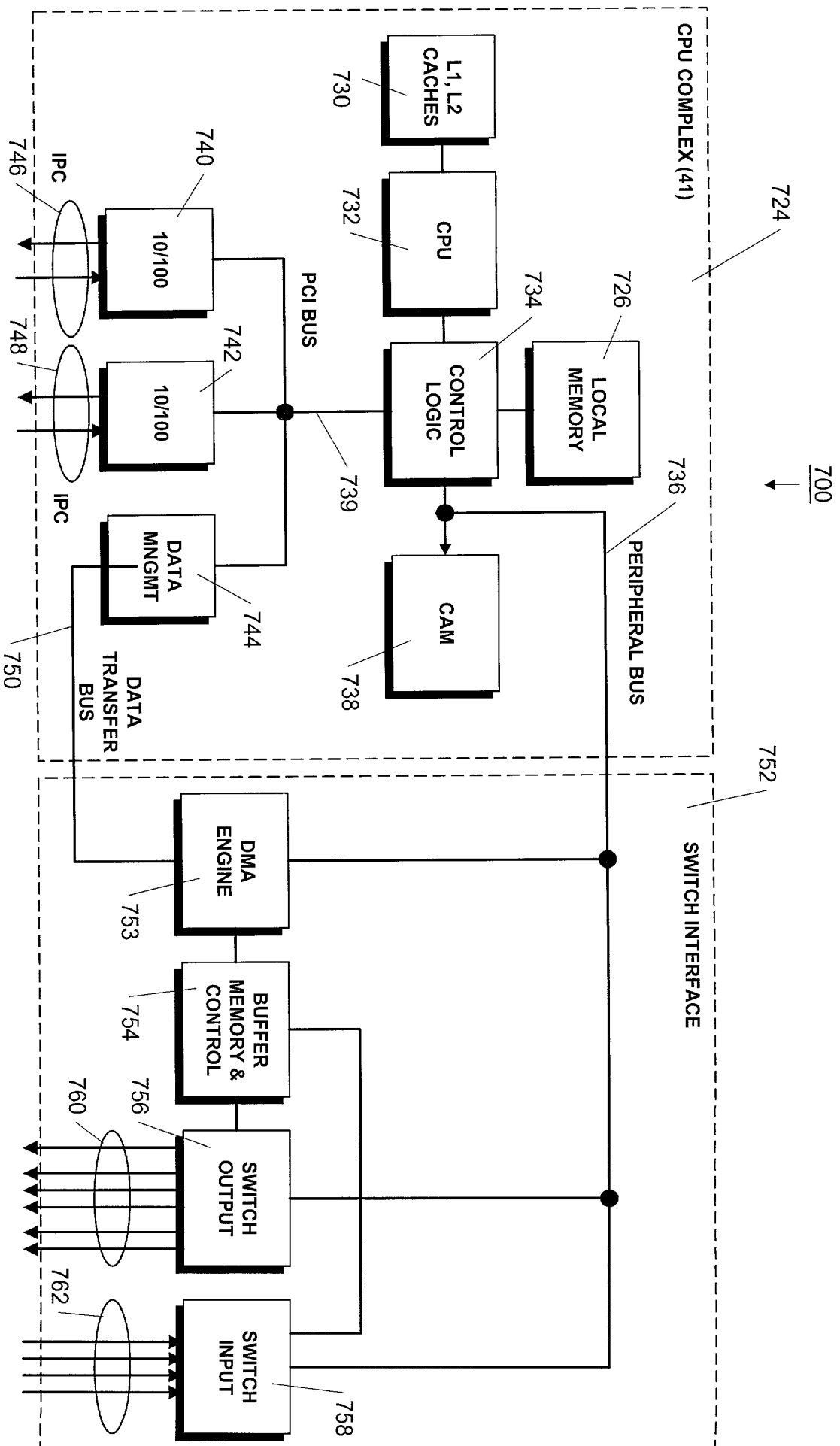


FIG. 7

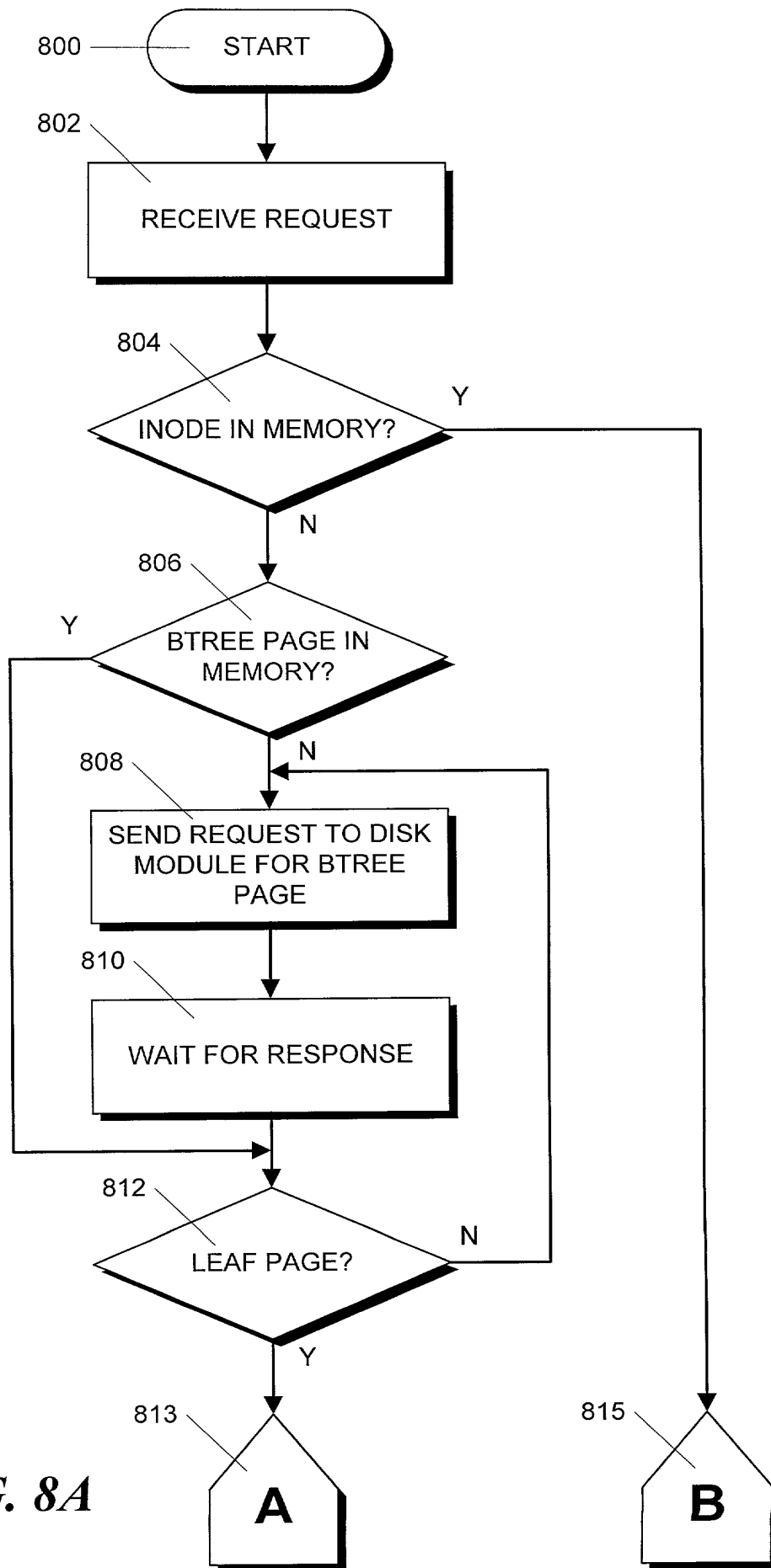


FIG. 8A

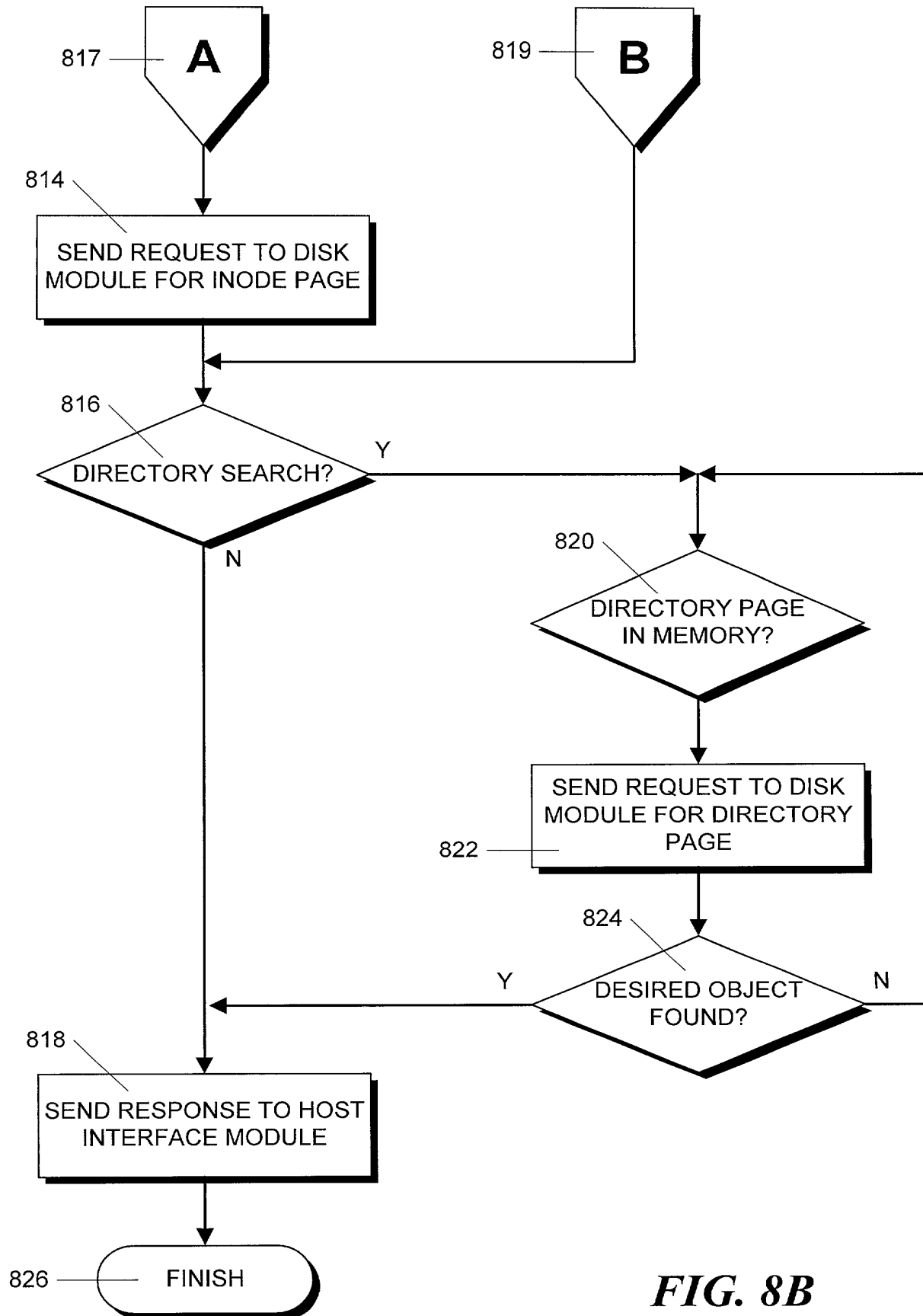


FIG. 8B

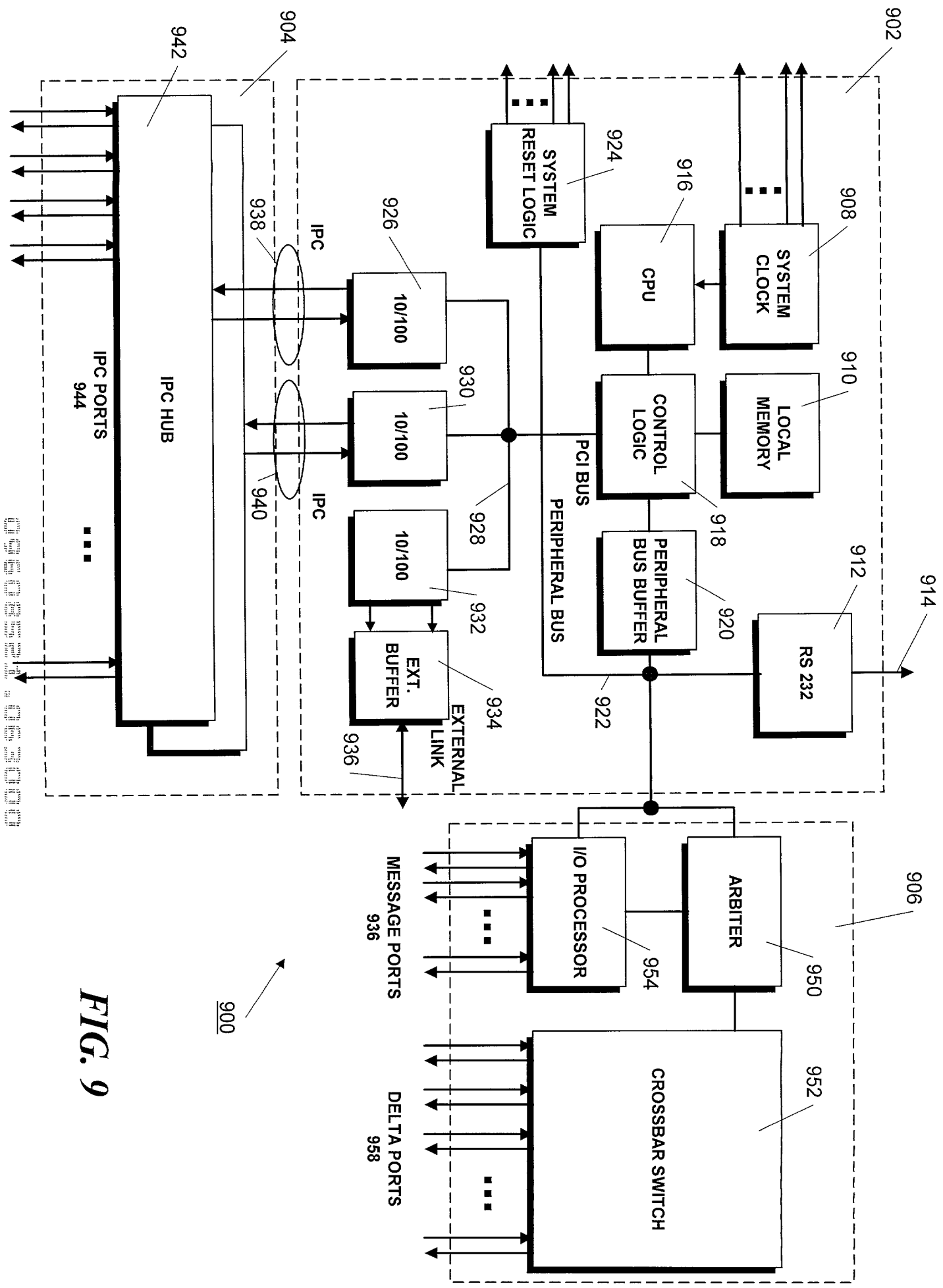


FIG. 9